

Application Serial No.: 10/808,865  
Amdt. dated October 5, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of July 5, 2005

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Office Action dated July 5, 2005 has been carefully considered. In response to the Office Action, Applicants have amended the Specification, amended Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 10-11 and 13-16 and added new Claim 21 which, when considered with the remarks set forth below, are deemed to place the case in condition for allowance. As a result of the present Amendment, Claims 1-21 remain in the case for continued prosecution.

In the Office Action, paragraphs [0029] and [0077] of the Specification have been objected to as containing typographical errors.

In response, Applicants have amended paragraph [0029] to include --20-- after the word "through and have amended paragraph [0077] to substitute the word --cam-- for the word "can." Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the informal Specification objections have been overcome.

Also in the Office Action, Claims 11 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner states that it is unclear how the second pivot axis is placed as a linear extension of the terminal sections of the path setting cam, as set forth in Claims 11 and 13.

In response, Applicants have amended Claims 11 and 13 to define linear terminal sections of the path setting cam having respective longitudinal axes which meet at a common point coinciding with the second pivot axis. Support for Claims 11 and 13, as amended, is found in the specification in paragraph [0047]. It is respectfully submitted that the arrangement of the second pivot axis with respect to the linear terminal sections of the path setting cam has now been sufficiently clarified. Accordingly, it is believed that the §112, second paragraph, rejection to Claims 11 and 13 have been overcome.

Further in the Office Action, Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner has set forth the basis for each individual claim rejection in the Office Action.

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In response, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to provide further clarification as to the structure and arrangement of all of the claimed elements. Specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to define a handling device including a pivot arm, a handling part serving for carrying a gripper and a path setting cam. The pivot arm is able to be driven by a drive means to perform an oscillating movement about a stationary first pivot axis. The handling part is able to be pivoted about a stationary second pivot axis while performing a second pivot movement. The handling part is furthermore able to be set radially in relation to the second pivot axis while performing a linear stroke. The path setting cam extends at least partly around the first pivot axis and has two linear terminal sections. The handling part includes a cam follower engaged with the path setting cam and an entrainment member coupled to the pivot arm such that the cam follower is able to be moved radially by the pivot arm with respect to its first pivot axis. The pivot arm acts, during its first pivoting movement, in a driving manner on the cam follower so that the cam follower is shifted along the path setting cam. As a result, the handling part moves along a handling path which has two linear terminal sections, in which the handling part respectively performs exclusively a linear stroke.

It is believed that Claim 1, as amended, now clearly sets forth all of the claimed elements and their structural arrangement and interconnections so as to permit the claimed results. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the §112 rejection to Claim 1 has been overcome.

Applicants have further amended Claims 4, 6-8 and 15-16 to clarify the structure and arrangement of all of the claimed elements, as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the §112 rejections to Claims 4, 6-8 and 15-16 have been overcome.

Applicants have also amended Claims 10 and 14 to correct the errors contained therein. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the §112 rejections to Claims 10 and 14 have been overcome.

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Applicants have further added new independent Claim 21. New independent Claim 21 defines a handling device for the repositioning of parts including a support body, a drive means disposed on the support body, a pivot arm driven by the drive means to perform an oscillating pivoting movement about a stationary first pivot axis, a path setting cam supported on the support body, a handling arm and a handling part movably carried by the handling arm. The path setting cam defines a path extending at least partially around the first pivot axis and has two linear terminal sections. The handling arm includes a cam follower engaged with the path setting cam and an entrainment member coupled to the pivot arm. The handling arm is driven by the pivot arm about a stationary second pivot axis, wherein the cam follower moves along the path defined by the path setting cam. The handling part is coupled to the handling arm cam follower such that the handling part pivots with the handling arm about the second pivot axis and translates linearly with respect to the handling arm when the cam follower moves along the linear terminal sections of the path defined by the path setting cam.

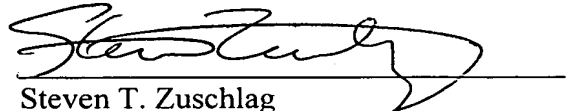
Applicants further wish to respond to the Examiner's finding that the Feyrer et al. patent discloses a device similar to Applicants' device. The mentioned Feyrer et al. patent corresponds to the PCT Publication No. WO 01/68490 discussed in paragraph [0004] of the present application. As set forth therein, the Feyrer et al. patent discloses a handling part having a gripper adapted to move along a handling path having two linear terminal sections. However, unlike the claimed invention, the handling part disclosed in the Feyrer et al. patent only performs a linear stroke. Thus, the Feyrer et al. patent does not disclose a device having a handling part that is capable of changing its orientation, as defined in the claims of the present application. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1, the claims that depend therefrom, and new independent Claim 21 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, favorable consideration and allowance of the application with Claims 1-21 are respectfully solicited. If the Examiner

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believes that a telephone interview would assist in moving the application toward allowance, he is respectfully invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven T. Zuschlag", is written over a horizontal line.

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